

National Association of Wabash Men

Resolution Honoring Victor M. Powell H'55

WHEREAS, George Victor Campbell Morgan “Vic” Powell was born in Minnesota on November 25, 1919 as the son of a Methodist minister and into a family that instilled in him character and values that would guide him throughout his life;

WHEREAS, Vic Powell worked hard to earn his education by commuting to Rochester Junior College for his associate’s degree before transferring to the University of Minnesota for his bachelor’s degree in political science and economics, all with funding from the National Youth Administration;

WHEREAS, hard work and dedication has defined the life of Vic Powell, from delivering mail and working at the law library as an undergraduate through his half-century as teacher, mentor, and scholar at Wabash College;

WHEREAS, even with a heavy work load and classroom excellence, Vic Powell found time to compete in collegiate debate and win the Oratorical Gold Medal at the University, igniting a passion for rhetoric that would guide him throughout his career;

WHEREAS, after earning his master’s degree and doctorate from the University of Missouri and teaching for one year at Dartmouth, Vic Powell made the best decision of his life to come “teach for a year” at Wabash as Director of Forensics and Assistant Professor of Speech, titles offered “in lieu of salary;”

WHEREAS, Vic Powell became chairman of the Speech Department at Wabash in 1960 and would guide that department to great success in the tradition established by W. Norwood Brigance;

WHEREAS, over his lifetime, Vic Powell would serve his adopted *alma mater* in virtually every capacity, including Professor, Secretary of the Faculty, Dean of the College, Executive Vice President, and Acting President, and earned from Wabash the honorary degree Doctor of Humane Letters, and Honorary Alumnus in the Class of 1955;

WHEREAS, Vic Powell’s service to the community included terms on the Crawfordsville City Council, School Board, and Parks and Recreation Board; Military Academy Screening Board; and President of the Board of the Christian Nursing Service, to name only a few;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this twenty-fifth day of November in the year 2009, the Board of Directors of the National Association of Wabash men pays tribute to Victor M. Powell on the occasion of his 90th birthday, and let this resolution demonstrate the gratitude all Wabash men — and particularly this Board — for his lifetime contributions to the College and for his personal friendship to generations of Little Giants.

Mark A. Dewart '74
President of the National Association of Wabash Men
November 25, 2009